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James Howe Pamphlets
(1915)

THE
UNITED EMPIRE LOYALISTS

—AND—

THE MEMORIAL CHURCH,

ADOLPHUSTOWN, ONTARIO.

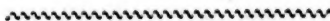


A SKETCH

BY THE REV. R. S. FORNERI, B. D.

To the Honourable John Beverly Robinson, who, when Lieut-Governor of Ontario in 1884, kindly laid the Corner-stone of the U. E. L. Memorial Church—St. Alban's—This sketch is respectfully inscribed by
The Writer.

THE RECTORY,
Adolphustown, Ont., Dec., 1888. }



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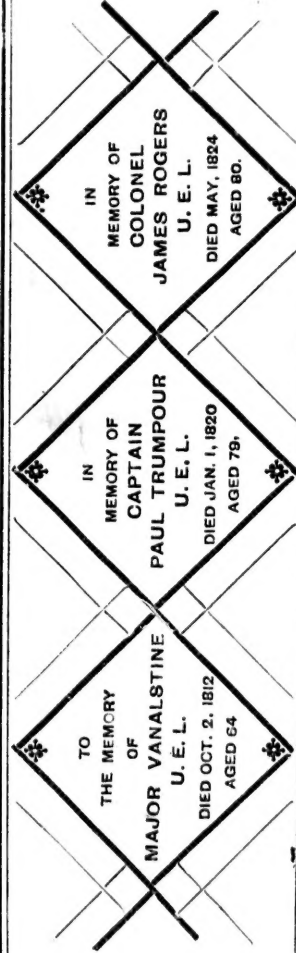
1888.

27 The colors selected for the Tablets are Purple and Buff.

Purple Tile, set in Wall, costs..... \$14.00.

Buff do. do. \$7.00.

THESE MEMORIAL TABLETS ARE OF ENGLISH GLAZED TILES.



EACH TABLET IS 12 INCHES SQUARE

MEMORY OF COLONEL JAMES ROGERS U. E. L. DIED MAY, 1824 AGED 80.	EACH TABLET IS 12 INCHES SQUARE.
MEMORY OF CAPTAIN PAUL TRUMPOUR U. E. L. DIED JAN. 1, 1820 AGED 79.	
THE MEMORY OF MAJOR VANALSTINE U. E. L. DIED OCT. 2, 1812 AGED 64.	

Around the Walls of the U. E. L. Memorial Church,
 Inscribed on Tablets of polished Tile,
 Let the names of our brave Forefathers be preserved.

To the Rev. R. S. Forneri, Secretary of the Building Committee, Adolphustown, Ont.:—

_____, Ont, _____ 188

Please order for me, and place in the wall of the
 U. E. L. Church, a Memorial Tablet contain-
 ing the following Inscription:

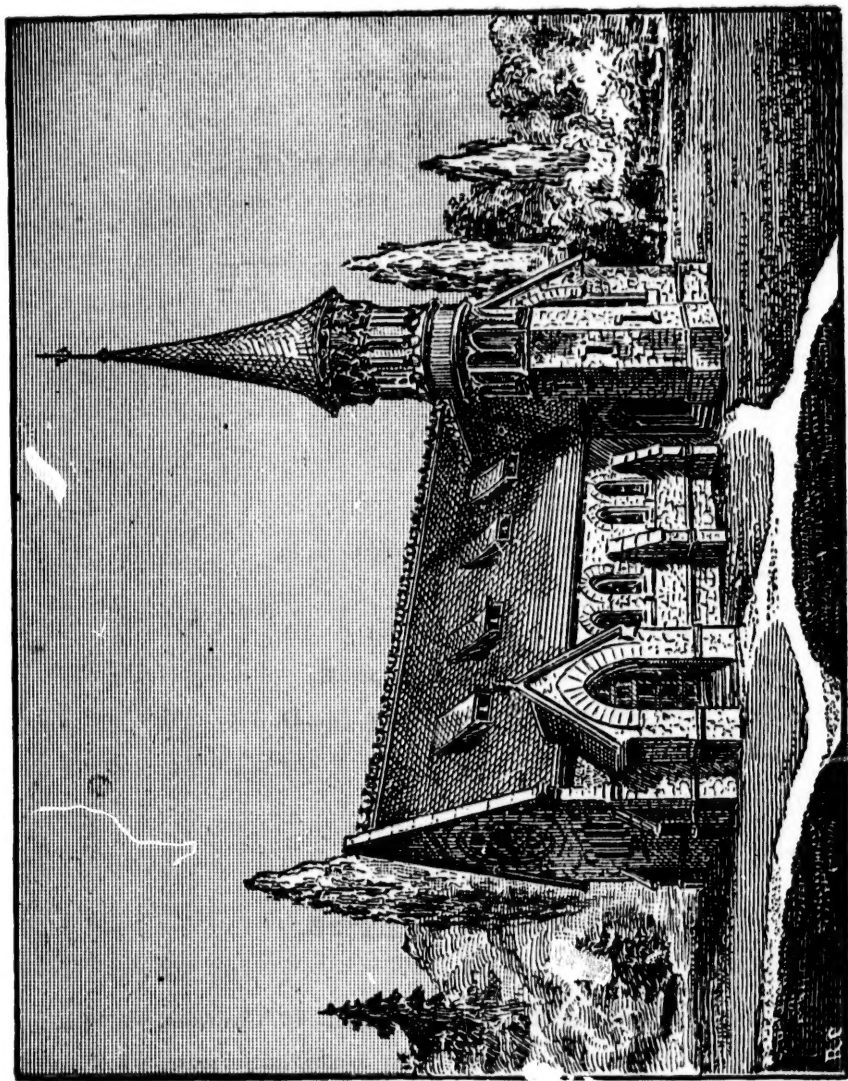
Name and Title, _____

Date of Death, _____ Age _____

The above Tablet to be of the colour of _____

Signature, _____





U. E. L. Memorial Church, Adolphustown.

U. E. L. MEMORIAL CHURCH.

ADOLPHUSTOWN.

1884.



PATRONAGE COMMITTEE

His Honor Lieut.-Governor Robinson.

The Lord Bishop of Ontario.

Chief Justice Wallbridge.

The Hon. Geo. A. Kirkpatrick, M. P.

The Hon. Sir Richard Cartwright, M. P.

D. W. Allison, Esq., M. P.

His Honor Judge Wilkinson.

Wm. Canniff, M. D., M. R. C., S. E

The Ven. Archdeacon of Ottawa. LL. D.

BUILDING COMMITTEE.

The Venerable T. Bedford Jones, LL. D., Chairman.

The Rev. R. S. Forneri, B. D., Rector, Secy-Treas.

J. J. Watson, Esq., J. P., P. M.

Dr. Ruttan.

Capt. James Chalmers.

S. M. Outwater, Esq.

Parker Allen, Esq. J. P.

THE U. E. LOYALISTS.

The story of the United Empire Loyalists, in whose honour the Church above represented is being built, belongs to the period of a little more than a century ago. They were men, who, when their fellow-colonists rebelled against the British Government, remained steadfast in their allegiance in spite of proscriptions, confiscations and personal outrages, many of them fighting in defence of the old flag, under which they were born, all through the dreadful struggle, until the thirteen States were severed from the Empire.

Then did those sturdy patriots evince their attachment to their Sovereign by an unexampled act of devotion, which covers their memory with undying honour, and on account of which those families who were concerned in it were, by Order of the Imperial Council, enrolled in an official list as "United Empire Loyalists," "to the end that they and their posterity might be discriminated from future settlers for distinguished benefits and privileges." *

For, rather than retain their possessions by the sacrifice of their honest convictions, and of their birth-right as British Subjects, they manfully determined to abandon home, property and prospects, and turn their footsteps towards the Canadian north to make new homes for themselves in the unbroken wilderness. But then—

" 'Twas British wilderness !
Where they might sing,
God save the King !
And live protected by his laws,
And loyally uphold his cause.
'Twas welcome, wilderness !
Though dark and rude,
And unsubdued ;
Though wild beasts howled
And Indians prowled ;
For there their sturdy hands,
By hated treason undefiled,
Might win from the Canadian wild
A home on British lands."—Rev. Leroy Hooker.

* Given at the Council Chamber, Quebec, Monday, Nov 19th, 1789.

Thus it was that this noble band of patriots became the Fathers and Founders of our loyal and prosperous Dominion, which is at this day "The fairest jewel in Britain's Crown."

It is said that upwards of 20,000 souls were thus driven into exile ; and incredible were the hardships and privations they, with their wives and children, endured, in making their way, the most destitute of them on foot, to British territory, and scarcely less severe were their trials during the first few years of their settlement in the bush.

Among these refugees was a goodly company of Churchmen. The whole congregation of Trinity Church, New York, with their dauntless Rector * at their head, Dr. Inglis afterwards first Bishop of Nova Scotia, crossed over into New Brunswick. The faithful band of the Six Nation Indians, were most of them, Christians, belonging to the Church of England. Many others transported themselves to Upper Canada, chiefly under the lead of the Rev. Dr. Stuart, who has been called the "Father of the Canadian Church."

The piety of the Loyalists was remarkably exemplified by the fact that leaving other valuables behind, they brought with them out of their abandoned places of worship, the Bible, the Sacred Altar Vessels, the Tables of the Commandments, and even the Royal Arms, as the most precious relics of their old homes. These they placed in the rude log churches which they constructed without delay in their new settlements.

In the land of their adoption their conduct was worthy of their past record, worthy of men who, at such great sacrifices illustrated the Scriptural precept to "Fear God and honour the King."

Ever to be remembered in our Canadian Annals was the first Canadian Parliament, convened at Niagara in September 1792, a few years after their arrival in the country. Among their very first acts were the adoption amid great enthusiasm of the old English principles of law, order and government, and *the Abolition of Slavery in the Province*. Thus the U. E. Loyalists took the van of all the world in this great act of justice and humanity. England herself did not manumit the slaves in her colonies until 1838, while the United States did so only about 25 years ago.

In the year 1812, when our peaceful Canadian settlements were invaded by hordes from the neighbouring Republic, thinking with enormous odds † that they would easily sweep the flag of England

* A squad of rebel soldiers entered Trinity Church during divine service, and when the Rector began to pray for the King, levelled their muskets at him, but he kept calmly on with the State prayers, omitting nothing, and the muskets were at last dropped.

† Eight millions to four hundred thousand !

from the American Continent, Loyalist heroes, now advanced in years, with their sons by their side, fought under General Brock and other noble soldiers. Invasion followed invasion, but at the end of the struggle not a single inch of Canadian territory had been wrested from the British Crown. Thus we owe it mainly to the U. E. Patriots that one half the Continent of North America remains to-day under British rule.

Such were the U. E. Loyalists of America, a nobler ancestry than they, no country in the world can boast of. Their convictions led them to uphold *the Unity of the Empire*, and they had the courage of their convictions; for this they fought and bled and sacrificed everything that men commonly hold dear. As settlers they proved themselves to be laborious, law abiding, God fearing, proud only of what they counted their richest inheritance—"participation in the name, character and freedom of Britons."

One hundred years have now rolled by and the Loyalists of that hour have passed to their rest, but far and wide throughout this Dominion their descendants may be found glorying in the name and traditions they have inherited and in the ties that bind them to the mother land.



THE MEMORIAL CHURCH.

The Centenary of the settlement of old Canada by the expatriated Loyalists, was, in the summer of 1884, celebrated in several parts of the Province of Ontario, and nowhere more enthusiastically than in Adolphus township* on the Bay of Quinte, on the spot it is said, where the first detachment of the Refugees landed. Among the proceedings in honour of the event, was the laying of the Cornerstone of the *U. E. L. Memorial Church* by His Honor Lieut.-Governor Robinson, a descendant of a distinguished Loyalist family. The interesting ceremony was performed in the midst of a brilliant assemblage Clerical and Lay, whilst on either hand were drawn up a Company of Volunteers, who at the close of the proceedings fired three volleys as a *feu de joie*.

It was natural, at a time when Loyalist memories were being stirred to their depths, by the preparations for the Centennial demonstration, that the parishioners of the old Township of Adolphus, once "almost the centre of Canada," † proud of their ancestry, in requiring to build a new Church, instead of their superannuated frame and plaster place of Worship should resolve to erect a Memorial Church to their brave grand-fathers. And having thus resolved, with commendable spirit they determined to make it as worthy and complete a Memorial as they could. A small brick parish Church answering their modst requirements, would have cost but \$3,000; they resolved to expend seven or eight thousand dollars on a Monumental Church of chaste design and finish, according to plans submitted to them by Kingston architects, Messrs Power and Son.

The contributions of the parishioners for this interesting object, though far short of the required sum, were liberal for their means; but helpers were not wanting abroad, especially in Kingston. Among the Clergy the Venerab:^s T. Bedford Jones, LL. D., became the faithful and active friend of the undertaking; among the laity its patrons included the eminent names of the Hon. J. Beverley Robinson, then Lieut. Governor of Ontario, Sir Richard Cartwright and the late Chief Justice Wallbridge, the Hon. G. Kirkpatrick, and Dr. Canniff, author of "The Settlement of Upper Canada."

* Named like the other townships around the bay, Ernsttown, Fredericksburg, Marysburg, after a child of George III.

† See Appendix.

On the 16th day of June 1884, as already stated, the Corner stone of the sacred edifice was laid. Autumn of the following year saw it completed externally (save the spire) at a cost of \$5,000, every dollar of which was paid up in less than twelve months. Let a few words of description suffice. The Church is of the Early-English Gothic style, solidly built of limestone from the Kingston quarries. At the south side is the Main entrance Porch; an elegant Bell tower octagonal below and circular above, ascends at the junction of the Nave and Chancel. The chancel terminates in half a ~~pentagon~~ ^{apex}, with a window in each face. The dimensions of the Nave are 50 feet by 30 feet, and of the Chancel 24 feet by 30 feet, a fine arch separating these two parts of the Church.

It stands on a choice spot of land, the gift of one of the leading parishioners, J. J. Watson, Esq., P. M., and from a delightful elevation overlooks, at a short distance, the beautiful bay of Quinte, an object of interest to travellers on the steamboats that in summer daily pass by.

One feature of the unfinished interior must be specially mentioned, for it is that which more than any other will give it the character of a U. E. L. Memorial Church—the Mural Tablets.

Just above the wainscoting, will run all round the walls of the Church a band of coloured tiles and in this band will be inserted polished purple and buff Tablets one foot square, placed diamond fashion angle to angle until the circle is completed. These Tablets are to contain the Names of the U. E. Loyalists. Thus, names, which are brightly historical will be preserved from the oblivion to which their unmarked graves and crumbling tombstones would consign them. There will they remain for the remembrance and honour of successive generations.

And in this place it may be appropriate to mention another proposal whereby, in connection with this Church, both the memory of the old heroes may be perpetuated and their example be continually held up before the eyes of the youth of the country. It is proposed that some lover of "the men and their deeds," should provide the sum of one thousand dollars for the purpose of endowing a Sermon, Lecture or Oration to be called after the name of the donor *The—Lecture*, to be delivered annually upon a set day, by some select speaker of ability, lay or clerical, who in recalling the motives and conduct of the Loyalists in the trying hour, when

"Crown and law and Parliament
Were trampled in the dust,"

would draw out those lessons which their courage and patriotism, their constraining sense of duty, their love of freedom, and honour

and charity, in a word, their devotion to their earthly and their heavenly Sovereigns have left behind them.

It was earnestly hoped that the Church would be completed and opened for divine service in the Jubilee year of her gracious Majesty's reign, but that season proved a "bad" one for the farmers, and the parishioners (a farming community) were unable to proceed. However, in the following winter they subscribed \$1,000 in the hope of better times the next season; but the most severe drought ever experienced again blighted their prospects, and another postponement of the work was necessary. But next spring the Building Committee are resolved (D. V.) to allow difficulties no longer to hinder them from finishing the work and labour of love entrusted to their management. Will not friends of the undertaking help to smooth the way of the Building committee by their kind contributions to the Building fund? Will they not help to make the Church *Memorial Throughout* by subscribing for a Mural Tablet, a Memorial Window, for a Font, Altar vessels, or other ornaments? A fine subject for an Altar-piece would be a sculptured representation of the first Canadian Parliament, striking off the fetters from the slave.

Perhaps it may be replied that the brave Loyalists deserve some far more imposing monument than this. They do, most certainly, and we trust that a national memorial will one day be undertaken by a grateful country, but yet, it will be granted that a church is no inappropriate memorial for men of such chosen virtue. And, moreover, it is the utmost that its builders can accomplish to keep ever green the memory of those heroes. They trust, therefore, that the readers of the foregoing sketch, touched by the story of suffering patriotism, may be moved to help on the good work, for the sake of men who fought and bled for Britain, and then, when the cause was lost, gave up all that men hold dear, that they might bring up their children on British soil.

Dear were their homes where they were born,
Where slept their honoured dead,
And rich and wide on every side
The fruitful acres spread;
But dearer to their faithful hearts,
Than home or gold, or lands,
Were Britain's laws, and Britain's Crown,
And Britain's flag of long renown,
And grip of British hands.*

*—Rev. Leroy Hooker.

Appendix

One or two extracts from Dr. Canniff's valuable work "The Settlement of Upper Canada," will illustrate the prominence which Adolphustown enjoyed in its early days in the affairs of the country.

"The time came when Adolphustown was almost the centre of Canada. It is true Kingston was the great point to which the military and naval forces centered, and the circumstances of such gave that place a status which it could not otherwise have obtained, but Adolphustown was really the centre of the settlements in the central part of Canada—the Midland district. So it came that the courts were alternately held at the Fourth Town and Kingston being twice a year in each place." The first lawyer to plead in these courts was Nicholas Hagerman, Esq., a prominent U. E. L. who came to Adolphustown in Major VanAlstine's company. (page 456.)

Again, on the same page, we read:—"Adolphustown, or Fourth Town, contributed during the first years of Upper Canada, a good many worthy individuals to the welfare of the country, indeed Adolphustown took the lead for many years in political as well as more general matters relating to the country. The general elections at one time resulted in the election of four belonging to this township to Parliament. To quote the words of Joseph B. Allison, our township though the smallest in the Province has furnished as many statesmen and judicial officers as any of the larger townships. From the humble abodes of Adolphustown have gone to the Legislative halls of Canada, Thomas Dorland, John Roblin, Christopher A. Hagerman, Paul Peterson, Dr. W. Dorland, Willet Casey, Henry Ruttan, Samuel Casey, Daniel Hagerman, David Roblin, John P. Roblin, who represented the county of Prince Edward for many years. The Hon. John A. Macdonald, although not born here, spent his juvenile years and attended the common schools in Adolphustown. Now, we challenge any township in the Province, that has not a city or town connected with it, to turn out eleven members of Parliament, all of them U. E. Loyalists."